



Miami Art Museum

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NEWLY-FORMED COLLECTORS COUNCIL RAISES ACQUISITION FUNDS FOR MAM'S PERMANENT COLLECTION

Miami Art Museum announced today that it has formed the **MAM Collectors Council**, a new group made up of museum members and supporters dedicated to the growth of MAM's permanent collection. The group, chaired by **Dennis Scholl**, a MAM supporter and Miami-based collector of works by emerging artists, will function under the direction of MAM curators. MAM's Collectors Council serves as an advocacy and fundraising group for acquisitions for MAM's permanent collection.

The Collectors Council was officially launched at a reception held at the Miami Beach home of Debra and Dennis Scholl on June 3, 2005. MAM trustee **Mary Frank**, who spearheaded this initiative, announced at the launch that the Collectors Council has already raised \$175,000 in donations since the group was formed six weeks ago. "The Collectors Council provides an opportunity to help build a great collection for Miami's flagship art museum," said Frank. "We are thrilled with the response from MAM's members and friends. It has exceeded our expectations."

Comprised of both beginning and seasoned collectors, the Council offers participants the opportunity to have firsthand access to artists, curators, dealers and other collectors who share an interest in contemporary art. "The enthusiastic and immediate response we've received is terrific," said Dennis Scholl. "I encourage other art lovers out there to support MAM."

Supporters donate \$5,000 annually to participate in the Collectors Council. The group will meet twice a year to look at works that MAM's curators have submitted for consideration. Started in 1996 with the vision to provide Miami with a legacy for future generations, MAM's collection has been referred to by ***Art in America*** as "the quintessential Miami collection." The MAM collection is dedicated to international art of the 20th and 21st centuries with the perspective of the Americas, and reflects the cosmopolitan makeup of Miami, forging connections between diverse groups and ideas.

MAM's Plaza Level Gallery is dedicated to exhibitions inspired by works in the museum's permanent collection. Currently on view is ***Figuratively Speaking***, an exhibition curated by Peter Boswell, MAM assistant director for programs/senior curator. The exhibition examines the revival of the human figure in art in European, Latin American and American art from the 1960s to the present. Among the highlighted works are recent acquisitions by Chuck Close, Marisol, Pepón Osorio, Susan Rothenberg, Carrie Mae Weems, Jose Bedía, Francesco Clemente, Naomi Fisher and Ana Mendieta. Works from the museum's permanent collection are also on view in MAM's Upper Gallery in **marking time: moving images**, curated by Lorie Mertes, MAM assistant director for special programs/curator. The exhibition presents 16 video and sculptural installations that mark time through movement.

Miami Art Museum receives both private and public funding. More than 50 percent of its annual support comes from corporations, individuals, foundations and MAM members. MAM is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts; with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.